

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB NEWSMAKER EVENT WITH GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL

SUBJECT: STATE OF THE RACE AND ISSUES OF THE DAY

MODERATOR: JOHN HUGHES, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

LOCATION: THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ESTATE ROOM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

TIME: 10:30 A.M. EDT

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

(C) COPYRIGHT 2008, NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, 529 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WASHINGTON, DC - 20045, USA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ANY REPRODUCTION, REDISTRIBUTION OR RETRANSMISSION IS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED.

UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION, REDISTRIBUTION OR RETRANSMISSION CONSTITUTES A MISAPPROPRIATION UNDER APPLICABLE UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW, AND THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PURSUE ALL REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO IT IN RESPECT TO SUCH MISAPPROPRIATION.

FOR INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, PLEASE CALL 202-662-7505.

**JOHN HUGHES:** Well, good morning, everybody. Welcome to the National Press Club. My name is John Hughes. I'm an editor for Bloomberg First Word, that's our breaking news desk here in Washington for Bloomberg. And I'm honored to be the President of the National Press Club.

So our guest today is Republican presidential candidate and Louisiana Governor, Bobby Jindal, who sits to my right, and he will be discussing many of the issues of the day through his comments and through the question and answer. And I also understand that he'll have some things to say about the GOP frontrunner, Donald Trump.

I also want to introduce up here on the dais sitting with me, my National Press Club colleague, Amy Henderson. Amy is the National Press Club Speakers Committee member and she helped organize this event. And thank you, Amy, for all of your work in making this happen.

I also want to welcome our C-SPAN and Fox and Public Radio audiences, and remind you that you can follow the action on Twitter. Use the hashtag NPCLive. For those of you Tweeting in the room, NPCLive, as well as those of you following on the internet. It's a good way to follow what's happening here in the room on social media.

So, without any further hesitation, I want to welcome to the National Press Club GOP presidential candidate and Louisiana Governor, Bobby Jindal. (Applause)

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Thank you all very much, and thank you very much to the folks at the Press Club for having me, and good morning.

Look, today I want to put aside my own political mission, my own campaign just for a moment. I want to talk about something more important than myself or any single candidate. The idea of America is slipping away from us. What do I mean by that? We're on the path towards socialism. In America today, we've got over \$18 trillion of debt, Planned Parenthood is dismembering and selling babies across the country. The idea of America is slipping away from us. That is the context for what I want to talk about today.

Yet, there was a great opportunity for us to get our country back. There is a hunger to get America back. I see it in the polls, I see it in people's eyes, in the early states. You see it all around us. People are hungry and eager to get the idea of America back. I believe our country is ready for it. The liberalism, the incompetence of the Obama Administration have brought us to the edge. The idea of America is slipping away. The people can see it and they're demanding radical change. They're demanding that we get back on the path to greatness. The American people have a massive appetite for a rebirth, a massive appetite for making America great again. That is the context and the reason for my remarks today.

I want to start by saying I like the idea of Donald Trump. I like the idea of an outsider. I like the idea of somebody willing to say the things you're not supposed to say. I like the idea of somebody going after the D.C. political class. The reality is they are full of foolishness and nonsense. Donald Trump's diagnosis is exactly right. The political class is the problem. The problem is Donald Trump's prescription is exactly wrong. His diagnosis on the political class is right, his prescription is wrong. His prescription is that he is the solution. Donald Trump's not the solution. The problem is that Donald Trump himself is full of foolishness and nonsense as well.

Now look, I'll start by saying I like the idea of Donald Trump and I like the show. I like the Donald Trump act and show. It's a lot of fun, it's entertainment. I laughed when he went on live TV and gave our Lindsey Graham's cell phone number. I thought it was pretty entertaining when he said that audiences were falling asleep at Jeb Bush's rallies. I thought it was great when he gave helicopter rides to kids at the Iowa State Fair. It's been a lot of fun.

But here's the problem: Donald Trump is not a serious candidate. He's a narcissist. He's an egomaniac. The only thing he believes in is himself. The reality is that I want to say what everybody is thinking about Donald Trump but afraid to say. Everybody knows this is true. This shouldn't be new. The idea of the Donald Trump act is great. The reality of Donald Trump, however, is absurd. He's non-serious. He's a carnival act.

Here's the truth about Donald Trump. Donald Trump is shallow. He has no understanding of policy. He is full of bluster. He has no substance. He lacks the intellectual curiosity to even learn. You can't argue policy with this guy. The only thing

that Donald Trump believes in is himself. Look, he tells us that his healthcare plan's going to be fabulous. He tells us his tax plan will be really, really terrific. He is shallow, there is no substance. He doesn't know anything about policy. He has no idea what he's talking about. He makes it up on the fly.

He doesn't believe in limited government. He has told us that. Over and over from his belief in socialized medicine to his desire for tax increases. He has told us over and over that he's got no problem with big, top-down style government. The only government he's got with D.C. today, he has no problem with big top-down style government. His only problem is he's not the one running it today. Donald Trump's not against big government, he's just against the folks that happen to be running it.

Donald Trump is for Donald Trump. He believes in nothing other than himself. Look, he's not a liberal, he's not a moderate, he's not a conservative. He's not a Democrat, he's not a Republican, he's not an independent. Donald Trump is for Donald Trump. He's not for anything, he's not against anything. Issues don't mean anything to him. Policies, ideals, they're not important to him, he is for Donald. Donald Trump is a narcissist and he's an egomaniac.

Now, that may sound like a serious charge to make. But it is something that everybody knows to be true. He knows it, too, he celebrates it. He says Kanye West is great. Why is Kanye West great? Well, because Kanye West likes Trump. So therefore, Kanye West is great. He's an entertaining narcissist, but he's still a narcissist.

Like all narcissist, Donald Trump is insecure and weak. He's afraid of being exposed. That's why he tells us always and constantly how big and strong and wealthy he is. Look, we all know that-- we've all met people like Donald Trump who continue to tell us how insignificant everybody else is. We know that only a very weak and small person needs to constantly tell us how strong and powerful they are. Donald Trump believes he is the answer to every question. Donald Trump is dangerous, but not in the way you think. The reality is we have an incredible opportunity to turn our country around and the question for conservatives is this: are we going to rely and trust proven conservative principles or are we going to turn to a man who believes in nothing but himself?

And that is the most essential question we've got to answer right now. Are we going to miss this great opportunity? Are we going to apply conservative principles, or do we trust a man who believes in nothing but himself? That's what makes Donald Trump so dangerous. Many people think he's dangerous, they say, "Well, you wouldn't want somebody like that with such a hot head with his fingers on the nuclear codes." And yeah, that's certainly true. That's not the real danger.

The real danger is that ironically Donald Trump could destroy America's chance to be great again. And as conservatives, we must not miss this golden opportunity. The Democratic Party has terribly, incredibly screwed things up. Look, they've run our country into the ground. They're destroying our economy, they've screwed up our foreign policy. We're about to allow Iran to become a nuclear power. They're running their

weakest candidate who's running the weakest possible campaign. They are giving us this election on a silver platter. But if we blow this opportunity, we may never get it again. And this election's not just about the Republican Party or about conservatives, it is about saving our country. It is about rescuing the idea of America, making America great again.

Donald Trump is not a serious act. He is not a serious person. Look, it's all just an act, it's all just a solo show. The joke's on us. He's laughing all the way to the bank or the polling station. P. T. Barnum was never more right than right now. Now, you may have recently heard and seen that Donald Trump said that the Bible was his favorite book. Yet when asked, he couldn't even name a specific or a single Bible verse that was important to him, that had an impact on him.

Well, do you know why? Well, it's clear, Donald Trump's never read the Bible. The reason we know he's never read the Bible, he's not in the Bible. Folks, Donald Trump is not a serious person. This is a carnival act. These are serious times for our country. The Democrats have practically gift wrapped this election for us. The whole thing is set up for us to win. Now, we are flirting with nominating a non-serious, unstable, substance-free candidate. We cannot send this narcissist, we cannot nominate this egomaniac. Nominating Donald Trump is a certain way for us to ruin our opportunity to make America great again.

Look, the silly summer season is over. It's time to get serious about saving our country. It's time to send Donald Trump back to reality TV. It's time to tell him, "Look, you've been great. You've been great for ratings. It's been great fun. You've been almost as good as Don Rickles. The show's been a blast." And he was right when he borrowed Ronald Reagan's theme saying that we need to make America great again. We do need to make America great again. We do need to fire everybody in Washington. We do, in fact, need to get rid of political correctness. All of that is true.

We can make America great again. But we will not do that by putting an unserious and unstable narcissist in the White House. Our country is worth saving. This is our time to save it. The conservative cause deserves more than a power-hungry shark. He eats whatever is in front of him. Sooner or later, we will be his next meal. This is our moment, this is our time. We can win right now, or we can be the biggest fools of all time and put our faith not in our principles but in an egomaniacal madman who has no principles. If we nominate him, he will self destruct in a general election. He may be the greatest gift, the last that Hillary Clinton actually has.

But even worse, if you're a conservative, even if he were to win, it doesn't matter. He believes in nothing. We have no idea what he would actually do in the White House. Folks it is time to get serious about making America great again. It is time for Donald Trump to take the ride down the elevator. It is time for us to tell him, "Donald, you are fired." It is time to tell him we will not put an egomaniacal, unserious person in the White House. We need to put a committed conservative in the White House, one who will make our country great again, who will ignore the professional political class in Washington,

D. C. Donald Trump's campaign is not about making America great again, it's about making Donald Trump great.

Look, obviously I think I'm the right man for this job. But the voters will make that decision. America is ready for a politically incorrect, committed conservative candidate. If I haven't been clear, I think the Donald Trump show's been entertaining, I've enjoyed him as a reality TV show star, but just because a lot of people like watching Kim Kardashian, we wouldn't put her in the White House, either. He is an unserious, unstable, narcissistic egomaniac. It is time for us to put a serious, committed conservative. Let's make America great again. It starts by firing Donald Trump. Thank you, and I'll look forward to taking your questions.

**MR. HUGHES:** Thank you, Governor. You can stay right there at the podium. The CNN poll that was out this morning said that Trump is the first candidate to surpass 30 percent. Did you and other GOP candidates wait too long in going after him the way you are today?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, I think the summer silly season's been fun, but I think there is plenty of time. The first votes will be cast in Iowa in February. One thing Donald Trump is right about, it is time to fire professional political class in D.C. The voters that I've seen in the early states are angrier, they're angrier at the Republicans than they are even at Obama. Look, the choice we've given voters is you can vote for honest socialists in the Democratic Party or lying conservatives in the Republican Party. I think they're looking for a real alternative. They're looking for committed conservative reformers who will be honest with them and do what they said they were going to do when they were running for office.

So no, it's not too late. It's not too late to save our country. It's not too late to get rid of this narcissist. It's not too late to rely on our conservative principles. But now's the time for conservatives to embrace our principles, not an individual who only believes in himself.

**MR. HUGHES:** Some of your fellow candidates running followed Trump's ideas on immigration and he seemed to set the tone for all the candidates on immigration. And then yesterday we saw one of the candidates appear with Trump at a rally. Are some of your colleagues in the GOP undercutting your message by giving Trump credibility?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well, two things. Look, I can't speak for other candidates. I can tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to fight for conservative ideas. I'm going to fight for my party, I'm going to fight for my country, most importantly. But I will say this. He is a dangerous man. Any candidate, any individual out there enabling Donald Trump is making a serious mistake. I don't think it makes sense to empower him, I don't think it makes sense to enable him. I don't think it makes sense to kiss up to him hoping that something'll rub off on these other candidates.

The reality is he is not a serious man. He is not a conservative. The only thing he believes in is himself. So I think others are making a mistake. I think it's time for us to have a real fight for our conservative beliefs. We need to stand up against the D.C. establishment, but we also need stand up against this narcissist. So any candidate that's simply kissing up to him hoping that some crumbs will drop off his table on their poll results I think is making a mistake. And I think it's time to take him on.

Look, anybody knows, we've all dealt with folks like this before. If you want to deal with the school yard bully, you take him on directly.

**MR. HUGHES:** Several have written that Trump has made it more difficult for people in your party to attract Latino voters. Is that true, do you think, and how will you overcome that?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, I think Trump-- every day he finds a new group to insult. He insults women, he insults this group, he insults that group. I think that we're going to fight for every vote by applying conservative principles. I think we need to be up front and say, "He's not a conservative. He's not going to be the Republican nominee. He believes in himself, he believes in ratings." I think we fight for every vote by staying true to our principles. This country's hungry for conservative reform. This country is hungry to make America great again.

We can and should win this election. I think the Democrats have given it to us on a silver platter. Hillary Clinton is self destructing right now. She is losing to socialist. Folks, she's losing to a socialist in the United States. We won the Cold War. Other countries are moving to capitalism, free market democracies. Are we going to be the only country that moves in the wrong direction, that's going the other way? Hillary Clinton is losing to a socialist, a man that-- I'm not calling him names. Bernie Sanders calls himself a socialist. And by the way, that just means he's more honest than everybody else in the Democratic Party. Obama and Hillary Clinton are no better. At least Bernie Sanders is honest about what he is and what he stands for. They're socialists as well, they just won't say it.

So we've got a golden opportunity to win this election, to apply our conservative principles, rescue our country. Let's not give it away.

**MR. HUGHES:** What do you mean when you said we have to get rid of political correctness?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well, you know, look, I think there's this fear you're not supposed to say things. You're not supposed to say certain things. You've got universities-- for example, a university up in New Hampshire is now saying well you can't say rich, you can't say American, you can't use these terms. You've got a member of Congress trying to introduce legislation saying the federal government shouldn't use the terms husband or wife. You've got folks on the left saying that American shouldn't be the melting pot, we should be the salad bowl.

This is nonsense. And I think the American people are tired of it. And you talked about immigration. I think the American people are looking for commonsense reforms. For example, the left says well, it is culturally arrogant to say America's the melting pot. That's ridiculous. That has been a strength of America for centuries. The reality is that immigration, without assimilation, is not immigration. It's invasion. And I think the American people are looking for somebody to stop the political correctness, stop the nonsense and just be honest with them. \$18 trillion of debt. We got math deniers in this town that pretend like we're not going broke. We keep spending more money than we take in. We got science deniers at Planned Parenthood. Hillary Clinton and the left, they call it fetal tissue or specimens. They refuse to use the words babies.

I think the American people have had enough with the political correctness. They've said, "Just be honest with us. Tell us we're going bankrupt. Tell us that what's going on in these Planned Parenthood clinics. Tell us what's going on with our weak immigration policy." So I think it's time to put an end to this political correct nonsense and just be honest with folks, whether it's the truth about the federal spending that's unsustainable or an immigration policy that right now is a dumb immigration policy.

Look, let's be honest. We could secure the border in six months if we were serious about this. Democrats don't want to do it. The Republicans are afraid of big business. They don't want to stand up to big business interests. It's time for us-- that's why I say it's time for us to fire this group and it's time for us to get back to conservative ideas to get our country back on the right path.

**MR. HUGHES:** I mentioned the CNN poll and that poll continues to have you down near the bottom. Why hasn't your own campaign taken hold yet?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** You know, look, we're doing well in the early states. We've spent our time in Iowa, we're gaining ground there, we're making movements there. We're seeing larger and large crowds, we're going to every county doing town hall meetings. We've seen our poll numbers improve there. There's a saying in Louisiana, you go hunting where the ducks are, first votes will be cast in Iowa the first week of February. So we're fighting there and making up ground there.

But let me be clear. Today, today, this is-- I'm putting aside my political mission for a moment today because this is important. This is bigger than simply just my campaign. This is about where do we go as a country. This is about the direction not only the Republican Party and the conservative movement, but it's what do we do in the face of the fact that the idea of America is slipping away from us? Do we seize the opportunity to get back on the right path or do we waste it because of this narcissist? Because we're all enjoying laughing at his jokes and his outrageous behavior? It's time to get serious.

**MR. HUGHES:** You have supported Kennedy county clerk Kim Davis in her refusal to sign gay marriage licenses saying it is a religious freedom issue. Yet, we had

the Supreme Court ruling and some of those licenses have been issued. Should those licenses continue to be issued regardless of her personal beliefs?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Couple of things. Look, I think it's amazing in America today you can jeopardize our national security and run for president, but if you oppose gay marriage, you end up in jail. I'm glad that she's no longer in jail, but you shouldn't have to choose in America between following your conscience and being able to keep your job. I signed an executive order called the Marriage Conscience Act in Louisiana saying we will not in Louisiana discriminate against individuals who have a traditional view of marriage being between a man and a woman because of their sincerely held religious beliefs.

I think that should be true in Kentucky, I think that should be true in every state because of our first amendment rights. The founding fathers anticipated this conflict, they enshrined this right in the first amendment to the constitution. She shouldn't have to give up her Christian beliefs simply because she's a clerk of court. No officeholder, no business owner, should have to give up their conscience, sacrifice their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Religious liberty did not create the United States-- I'm sorry, the United States of America did not create religious liberty. Religious liberty created the United States of America. It is one of our foundational rights. Look, there's no freedom of speech, freedom of association without our religious liberty rights.

So I'm pleased she's no longer in prison, but I don't think she should have to choose between following her conscience and being able to keep her job.

**MR. HUGHES:** Should officials refusing to issue gun permits be treated like Kim Davis?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I'm not aware of a sincerely held religious conviction. Those that-- you know, folks like to make up all kinds of crazy hypothetical examples. The reality is that today, it is evangelical Christians, orthodox Catholics and other Christians, who are facing discrimination and persecution. The reality is it's florists, it's musicians, it's caterers that are being faced with thousands of dollars in fines, the loss of their business licenses, the loss of their businesses.

Let's talk about what's happening today. I know the left likes to make up hypotheticals that aren't happening. What's happening today is Christians are being discriminated against in the United States and that's wrong. We have first amendment rights. I know the ACLU and other groups loved RFRA when it was for other religious minorities. Now that it's Christians facing discrimination, they have shown their hypocrisy. They were for religious liberty before they were against it. I'm a Christian, I believe in the traditional view of marriage as being between a man and a woman. Even folks that don't, I hope, would believe in the rights, the first amendment rights, for folks like the clerk in Kentucky and for business owners and others all across our country.



**MR. HUGHES:** You mentioned your religious freedom executive order. What exactly do you hope that will accomplish and how will it withstand a legal challenge?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well, my hope is that other states would follow and do what we have done. We've passed religious freedom restoration act my first term. We did this executive order my second term in anticipation ahead of the Supreme Court's actual ruling in the marriage case.

And I've said, look, I said this during the first presidential debate, when my-- on my first day one of my first executive orders would be to establish the same religious freedom rights through a presidential executive order. I would hope you wouldn't need that. I would hope that our first amendment constitutional rights would be enough. Unfortunately, they're not being protected. My hope is that would allow individuals across America to live their lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week according to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

When Hillary Clinton and the left says you've got the right to religious freedom, all they mean is a couple of hours a week in church. That's not religious freedom. Religious freedom's being able to live your life according to your sincerely held religious beliefs. It has been a foundational right of freedom in our country since our founding. It is important to fight for this right.

The left is trying to take God out of the public square. They're trying to make America a secular country. That is not what the founding fathers intended.

**MR. HUGHES:** Next week's debate in California, you will likely be asked about your policy on sanctuary cities. What about your approach on sanctuary cities? And the questioner also says, "Do you acknowledge research showing immigrants commit crimes at a lower rate than native born Americans?"

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** So, a couple of things. I know Congress wants to de-fund sanctuary cities, that's great. I've said we should go further. I've said that we should actually-- I called it a partners in crime package. I've said that mayors and councilmen should be held criminally responsible, criminally liable as accessories to the crimes committed by those that shouldn't be here in the first place if they decide to flout federal law.

So if you got local officials intentionally breaking federal law to create these sanctuary city policies, they should be criminally liable as accessories to those crimes. I bet you if you did that, if you locked up a couple of folks, you wouldn't have sanctuary cities anymore.

We now have a situation where the Supreme Court thinks they don't need to read the constitution. The President thinks he can pick and choose which laws he enforces. And local officials don't think-- they don't have to follow the law anymore. We need to

be-- we need to go back to where people understand that we are a nation of laws and have got to follow the laws. So, I think it would make sense to pass this and make them criminally liable.

And look, in terms of the data, I would ask folks are they willing to go and meet and talk to Kate's father? Are they willing to go talk to the victims that have been impacted by these crimes by folks that shouldn't have been here in the first place? One violent crime that could have been prevented is one too many. The reality is if folks shouldn't be here in the first place, we shouldn't-- cities shouldn't be passing policies to break the federal law.

If you don't like the law, change the law. That's what we do in this country. You don't simply get to pick and choose which laws you want to enforce.

**MR. HUGHES:** You have talked a lot about immigration and assimilation and the need for immigrants to want to be Americans. How is American defined and who makes the definition? How can it be enforced?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well, look, what I believe when it comes to immigration, a smart immigration policy, can make our country stronger. A dumb one makes us weaker. A smart policy says that if you want to come, you should want to be an American. I'm tired of the hyphenated Americans. We're not African or Asian Americans or rich or poor Americans, we're all Americans. And if folks don't want to be Americans, we shouldn't allow them to come here in the first place. That's just common sense. Millions of people want to come here. Why in the world wouldn't we pick those that want to be here?

Secondly, I think we should say that folks who want to be here can't use their freedoms to undermine freedoms for others. And third, they should learn English, they should adopt our values, they should come here legally, they should roll up their sleeves and get to work. There's nothing wrong with being proud of your heritage or where you're from, but for example my parents, they came here legally. They came here to be Americans. They love India, they love their background, that's where their families have been and are. But the reality is they came here because they wanted their children to be Americans. They wanted to be Americans. They didn't come here because they wanted their children to be Indians or Indian Americans. If they'd wanted that, they would have stayed home.

So, my definition of a smart immigration policy is we let folks in that actually make our country stronger, not weaker. And we do that by saying come legally, learn English, adopt our values, roll up your sleeves and get to work when you get here.

**MR. HUGHES:** What about this term anchor babies? What do you think of that term and is it something that should be used?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, I don't go out of my way to offend folks, so I think folks are too politically sensitive. I mean, you know, I thought it was funny, Hillary Clinton was offended by the term anchor babies, yet she won't use the term babies to describe what's going on in those Planned Parenthood clinics. In terms of the actual policy, what I think is important is secure the border. That's what's causing all these problems.

Secondly, people have asked, well, what about changing the policies or changing the law of those that are coming here legally? I've got no problem with that. I've got no problem changing the policies for coming-- for those that are coming here illegally. I think it's foolish to treat people that are here illegally the same as those that are coming legally.

I think if it helps to remove one more incentive for people to come here illegally, we should do that. Let's start by securing the border. Everybody in this town talks about it, they never get it done. We don't need a thousand page bill, we don't need the gang of eight, we don't need a comprehensive bill. You can just get it done in six months if we were serious about it. Wouldn't be perfect, but we could get it done.

The only reason of having a thousand page bill is to stack them up at the border. You don't need a thousand pages to get this done.

**MR. HUGHES:** We just received a follow-up question on Trump. And you called him unserious and full of foolishness. What is the biggest policy disagreement between you and Trump?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, it's a mistake to take Trump seriously or even say he has policies. He doesn't believe anything. He's for and against anything and everything. In a given interview, he will change positions. Donald Trump is for Donald Trump.

Here's the biggest policy difference. Bobby Jindal's for the United States. I'm for making America great again. I'm for applying conservative principles. I'm for getting us off the path to socialism, rescuing the idea of America. Donald Trump is for Donald Trump. Donald Trump is for making Donald Trump great. Donald Trump's not for making America great. Again, it's a great slogan. I love the fact that he took Ronald Reagan's idea of renewing America. It's a great theme.

But the difference between us is I'm about applying conservative principles and fighting to save our country. Donald Trump is for Donald Trump. He is for and against everything and anything as long as it's for Donald Trump.

**MR. HUGHES:** Of course, Trump took the pledge. If he is the nominee, would you support him as the Republican nominee or would you consider endorsing a third party candidate?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, the reason I'm here today is to avoid that hypothetical. The reason I'm here today is that he cannot be our nominee. Him being our nominee results in one of two very bad scenarios. One is that he implodes, the most likely scenario, and hands the election-- during the general election. He implodes during the general election, hands the election to Hillary Clinton.

Or, secondly, even if he were to somehow miraculously win, if he were somehow - maybe she implodes even worse than he does and he somehow gets elected, we have no idea what he would do. We have no idea what he stands for. We have no idea what he believes. He has no ideology other than Trump. He's not serious. He can't be our next president. And that's why I'm here, to avoid that hypothetical.

And my message, by the way, it's not for the-- somebody asked me earlier, is this about the D.C. establishment or do I want the Republican Party to keep him off the debate stage? Absolutely not. If the Republican establishment attacks him, he only gets stronger. This is a message to the conservatives saying we have a chance to apply conservative principles. Are we going to depend on our time tested, proven conservative principles, or are we going to turn to a man who believes in nothing but himself, a narcissist, an egomaniac, an unstable, unserious man who only believes in himself?

He's great entertainment value, he's great for laughs. You know, give him his TV show. Give him another TV show. I bet you he'll have great ratings. But don't put him in the White House. Don't put him in charge of Supreme Court nominations. Don't put him anywhere near the nuclear codes. What makes him dangerous is that he could blow this opportunity we have to rescue our country.

**MR. HUGHES:** Would you comment on the activities in Congress on the Iran nuclear deal, and should funding be withheld to implement that deal even if it would result in a shutdown of the government?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Yeah, look, a couple of things. One, let's look at where we are today. This is an awful deal. But let's look where the Senate is today. Yesterday, there were reports coming out that the Senate may not even vote on this bad deal. Now, there's an act of courage for you. What was the point of getting the majority in the Senate if we're not going to force every single senator to take a stand on where they stand on this very bad deal?

Secondly, the Senate got conned by President Obama. What do I mean by that? So they signed this very bad bill that instead of a two-thirds vote, the way it should normally be to approve a treaty, it now takes a two-thirds vote to reject this bad bill.

So they signed this very bad bill that, instead of a two-thirds vote, the way it should normally be to approve a treaty, it now takes a two-thirds vote to reject this bad bill. Only one Senator had the courage to stand up against the Corker bill, and that was Senator Tom Cotton. And good for him. None of the other Republican Senators stood

against this bad bill. None of those that are running for President, not Ted Cruz, not anybody else, stood against this bad bill.

So, instead now what we've got is Iranians conned President Obama—President Obama conned Senate Republicans. The only group he is apparently able to out negotiate are Senate Republicans. You know, everybody else takes advantage of him. Dictators all over the world walk all over him. He's an easy mark for the Casner Brothers, for Iran, for Russia, for Putin. The only person, the only people that he seems to outmaneuver are congressional Republicans.

So you've got the Senate who got conned by President Obama. Now you've got others on the Hill debating about whether they should—For example, one of the debates now is whether they should get rid of the so-called filibuster rule, should they exercise the nuclear option. What better time to use the nuclear option than actually prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power? You want to talk about a real nuclear option, that would be Iran, this terrorist state, becoming a nuclear power.

American policy has been not to negotiate with terrorists. Not only does President Obama negotiate with terrorists, he negotiates badly with the largest sponsor, the largest state-sanctioned sponsor of terrorism, Iran. So absolutely, they need to stand up to this bad deal, and they need to do whatever it takes to kill this bad deal. And it won't stop with Iran, by the way. Once Iran gets their green light, you're going to see the Sunni countries, the Saudis, the Egyptians, the Turks, maybe going to Pakistan, we could be starting a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, thanks to this very bad policy.

This is a threat to Israel, to Europe, to America, absolutely Congress should do whatever it takes to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power. And in part, that starts with stopping this very bad deal.

**MR. HUGHES:** The questioner mentions that many generals, including Colin Powell, support the deal. And the European allies are onboard. Does that acknowledge that this deal really is a tough call? And why are there so many people of prominence supporting it, if it's going to be so detrimental?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well look, I'll actually do something unusual. I'll actually agree with President Obama for once. Let's go back and remember what he said a good deal would look like. He said, all along, when you remember way back when this was going to involve Iran giving up their centrifuges, Iran giving up their enriched uranium, Iran allowing anytime, anywhere inspections, we didn't get those things. Instead, Iran is going to get over 100 billion dollars to continue supporting Hamas and has Hezbollah. Instead, they're not releasing their American prisoners. They're chanting "Death to Israel, Death to America." This is a bad deal. And this is going to lead to a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Look, folks can throw names all around. It'd be like me saying, "Well Schumer and Gardner are against it." Does that show that this isn't just partisan, that there are

senior Democrats that also understand how bad this deal is? But, at the end of the day, let's judge this deal for ourselves. I think Americans are smart enough to see through all the smoke and mirrors and say that basically, the Obama administration's position boils down to, we are weak. We can't negotiate a better deal. So we have to take this, because this is the best deal we could do. This may be the best deal that Obama could have done, it's not the best deal that America could have done. We could have done a lot better. We had a lot of leverage. And we still do, with falling oil prices. We have a lot of leverage. He had the unified international community with sanctions. He could have done better than this deal.

So I think it's a weak argument for him to come back to us and say, "Well, I only did—I got this very bad deal, and it's better than no deal." That's nonsense. He should never-- I think they start off with that posture. They didn't say that explicitly, but that has been throughout their actions. No deal is better than a bad deal. And absolutely, you know, ironically, being willing to say that actually leads to a better deal, ironically.

**MR. HUGHES:** You've been engaged in a battle in your own state with the Obama administration over Planned Parenthood. That issue is also active on Capitol Hill right now, where they're talking about defunding Planned Parenthood. Should the Congress proceed to a government shutdown if necessary to defund Planned Parenthood?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, so we canceled Planned Parenthood's contract in Louisiana, Medicaid contract. So we wanted to make sure taxpayer dollars were not going to Planned Parenthood in Louisiana because of these barbaric videos. They protested at the mansion. We said fine, they've got a right to do that. So we decided to show their videos over and over so they could actually see these images, see the barbaric language being used to describe what's happening in those clinics.

The Left wants to—you know, Obama's got time to send the Department of Justice to intervene in the lawsuit against us. The Left, they want to go after the groups that made this video. But they don't have time to actually watch the videos or go after Planned Parenthood and investigate Planned Parenthood. I'd say a couple of things.

Congress has the Constitutional responsibility to fund government, absolutely they should defund Planned Parenthood. There's no reason that Planned Parenthood should get over a half a billion dollars of our taxpayer dollars. And if the Republican party cannot make protecting innocent human life a winning issue nationally, I'm led to ask, what good is the Republican party? I mean this is ridiculous. If we can't win this fight now, what is the point of having the majority in the House and the Senate?

To answer your question, I don't think President Obama should shut down the government simply to try to preserve funding for Planned Parenthood. I think that'd be a mistake. And I don't think the President should do that. I do think Congress should send him legislation that funds other priorities without funding Planned Parenthood. And I don't think the President should then choose to shut down the government over this issue.

I have said this. Planned Parenthood better hope that Hillary Clinton wins the next election because under President Jindal I will send the IRS, the Department of Justice to investigate them. I got asked about that after the debate when I said that. I'll be clear. We will send the Department of Justice, the IRS, the EPA, OSHA, any other federal agency we can find as well. What you are seeing in those videos is barbaric. Louisiana has been the most pro-life state six years in a row under my leadership. And I'm proud of that.

But even those that aren't pro-life, I hope would be offended by what they see in those videos. Even those that aren't yet pro-life, I would hope—I hope their consciences would be woken up by what they see in those videos.

**MR. HUGHES:** What about the portion of Planned Parenthood funding that goes for birth control and to prevent abortion? Should that be allowed to go through? Or should that be cut as well?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** You know, in Louisiana, there are two clinics operated by Planned Parenthood. They last year than—they billed for less than \$300,000 dollars to the state out of \$19 million dollars we spent on reproductive health and similar family planning services for men and women. The reality is, there are hundreds of other providers where men and women and patients can go in the State of Louisiana. There are many, many other providers across our country that are not using their resources, their facilities for these barbaric acts. I think this is a smokescreen by the Left. It is time for us to defund Planned Parenthood.

It is time for us to investigate Planned Parenthood. I have launched an investigation in Louisiana. We've asked the FBI. We've asked the State of Texas and others to join us in that investigation. We can provide these services without funding Planned Parenthood. There's no reason for them to get one more penny of our taxpayer dollars. And there needs to be an investigation, not on the states trying to defund them. I know that the President doesn't have time to watch these videos. He's got time to send attorneys to Baton Rouge to fight us. He should make the time to watch these videos. He should make time to actually investigate Planned Parenthood.

**MR. HUGHES:** The world has been seeing the images of the refugee crisis in Europe, and it's been affecting so many people. Would you support the U.S. taking in more refugees? And if so, how many? And what is the long-term solution?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** No, to the answer to the first question. Secondly, look, America is the most compassionate country in the world. There is no country that compares to us. When you look at what we spend and what we do to care for those that need help. And I'm proud of that tradition. And that tradition should continue. We've got an established refugee process. We've got established programs.

But the reality, the reason I say no we shouldn't be taking in more people today, and we shouldn't be short-circuiting that process that vets folks and makes sure that folks aren't coming here with dangerous backgrounds, is that that is trying to put a band aid on

a very, very serious problem. Let's be very honest. The reason we have this refugee crisis today is absolutely—you can draw a straight line back to this President's failed policies. Remember when he said there would be a red line in Syria, and Assad better not cross that line. Assad used chemical weapons and the consequences didn't follow.

Well many bad things happened. The so-called moderate rebels, their numbers dissipated. We saw Sunni allies like Turkey and others hesitate, in terms of trying to fully join the fight against ISIS, and only now beginning to commit more and more resources. We saw Syria continue to dissolve and fall apart. We saw Russia and Iran continue to prop up Assad. And today, that effort intensifies with more reported deliveries of weapons and potentially manpower as well.

We are seeing the direct result of this President's failure to lead. His administration's policy so far has been described as leading from behind. He doesn't understand that American strengths leads to peace and stability, that weakness is provocative to evil and our enemies is one reason that ISIS, the so-called JV team has now grown and is occupying so much territory in Syria and Iraq. So the reason we're seeing this refugee crisis, in large part, you can draw a line back to our failed policies in the Middle East. This administration's failed approach.

The long-term approach, Assad has to go. We have to hunt down and kill these radical Islamic terrorists. We need to destroy ISIS. We need to take the handcuffs off of our military, get the job done. Otherwise we're just going to continue to watch millions of displaced refugees. And the answer is not simply for America and our allies to continue to take more and more people, we need to go and actually solve the underlying problem that's causing this refugee crisis.

**MR. HUGHES:** How many U.S. troops would you be willing to commit to destroy ISIS?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well look, I think two things. I think the President should take the ban off of ground troops and the three-year deadline out of the authorization of the use of military force. I think we should be arming and training the Kurds directly today, not waiting and going through Baghdad. I think we need to be encouraging our Sunni allies by being more resolute when it comes to the removal of Assad. I think that we need to go to the commanders and military commanders and say, "Give us a realistic game plan to wipe them out, to hunt them down and kill them." That may or may not involve ground troops. But we need to be doing—

Here is the ironic thing. Preparing for war is the best way to avoid it. A stronger America deters our enemies and encourages our allies. You want to destroy ISIS's ability to garner new recruits and new resources, destroy their ability to hold land. They're different from Al Qaeda. They need to be able to establish a so-called Caliphate. We destroy their ability to hold land, we destroy their ability to build a so-called Caliphate, it destroys their ability to gather new recruits and new resources.



Instead, this President goes to the Pentagon and says, “We’re going to have to engage in a generational conflict to win over their hearts and minds. We’re not going to win this conflict with guns.” That’s ludicrous. If Patton and Eisenhower had said that in World War II, the French would be speaking German today. That is a ridiculous approach. These are evil barbarians. They’re burning people alive in cages, raping, crucifying, torturing Christians, other Muslims, other religious minorities. You can’t engage in changing their hearts and minds, you’ve got to hunt them down and kill them before they come over here and kill us. We need a President with a moral clarity and honesty to tell us about the enemy we face. That enemy is radical Islam.

I know this President doesn’t like to use those terms. He loves to apologize for and criticize America, but he doesn’t like to talk about radical Islamic terrorism. That is the enemy we face.

**MR. HUGHES:** It sounds like you would be willing to commit ground troops if necessary, but hard to know at this point how many that would take?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well look, I’m absolutely willing to do whatever it takes to wipe out radical Islamic terrorism, to defeat and hunt down and kill ISIS before they attack us at home. And the best answer any Commander in Chief should say is, “We’ll never take any option off the table. We’ll listen to our military commanders and come up with a plan that actually wipes them out.” What this President has done, over and over, more than any President I can remember, is tell our enemies what we won’t do. I don’t know why we would ever go into any conflict and tell folks what we won’t do. I don’t want our military in a fair fight. If I ever sent out our military, I want them to dominate any potential conflict. Instead, this President keeps telling folks what we won’t do. And he continues to send a few hundred more at a time, troops into the region. That’s a mistake, this just continual incremental approach is not what’s going to—not what it takes to wipe out ISIS. We need to defeat them once and for all.

And actually, a more aggressive stance will encourage our allies to provide the manpower and the resources as well. I think you’ve got a lot of Sunni countries that are willing to help us in this fight against ISIS, a lot of regional allies that are hesitating, in part because they worry if they take out ISIS, and it only strengthens Assad, that helps Iran. They’re not convinced America is committed to win this. Ironically, this has actually decreased, I think, the willingness of some of our allies to fully commit to this battle.

**MR. HUGHES:** This questioner says you’ve spent much of your time in Iowa and New Hampshire. What are your plans or strategies for South Carolina? And will your message and strategy be different in the more diverse state?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I will be going back. We were in South Carolina with Senator Tim Scott doing a town hall meeting in the last couple weeks. We’ll be going back there next week. Look, we’re going to compete in every state. And no, unlike other candidates, my message doesn’t change for my audience. I think that voters are smart

enough and tired of politicians who tell them what they want to hear. My message is the same for everybody I talk to. And I think that message resonates and works.

Conservative principles are what are needed to get America back on track again. The reality is, I believe in limited government. We need to shrink the government economy, grow the American economy. I'm the only candidate that has reduced government spending. There's not two. A whole lot of people talk about it. We got nine governors, former governors running on the Republican side. I'm the only one that's reduced government spending. We've got a bunch of Senators talking. They have never cut anything. Look, they give great speeches, they give great filibusters. They pat themselves on the backs. I'm glad they've got big bladders. That's not enough to make them the next President of the United States.

My message will stay the same. We need somebody who's going to cut the government economy, grow the American economy, get America back on the right path. I believe that's a message that works in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and every one of the 50 states.

**MR. HUGHES:** What do you think of the Black Lives Matter movement? And has it made a positive or negative contribution to discourse?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Look, I think all lives matter. And I think it's amazing that a Democratic candidate for President had to apologize for saying that. All lives matter. Now certainly, when bad things happen, and we've seen some of these incidents, it's a tragedy, it needs to be investigated, prosecuted. That's somebody's child. I don't care what color they are. And if they've been mistreated, that doesn't need to be tolerated, shouldn't be tolerated in our society.

But for every incident like that we see, we need to remember, there are thousands of other incidents we don't see, where our police, our law enforcement are performing heroically, running towards danger to protect us. And unfortunately, that doesn't get the attention that it deserves. We don't see that nearly as often in the media. We don't hear those stories.

Look, I've had enough of all the division in our country. I think that we've been divided too much by ethnicity, by race, color, the color of our skin. I think that dividing, treating people differently by the color of their skin is the dumbest way to treat people and should not be accepted. Now is there racism in our society? Sure. Is there stealing and lying and cheating? Sure. There is sin in our society. We should do everything we can to eradicate it while acknowledging, as long as we're human beings, there will be sin in our society. That's not to excuse it or tolerate it. We need to be relentless in trying to eradicate it from our society.

I think one of the things we can do is stop trying to divide ourselves. Enough of the hyphenated Americans. We're all Americans. It shouldn't matter what color our skin

is. We're all created equal in God's eyes. We're all valuable because we're created in His image.

**MR. HUGHES:** Speaking as a governor, and who was a Congressman, what is your take on the conservative frustration with the GOP Capitol Hill leaders? And what is your message to GOP Capitol Hill leaders?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Yeah, I view it like I was sentenced for three years in Congress. That's what it felt like. The reality is, I absolutely agree with and understand the frustration. So the Republicans get the House and the Senate back, we get the Senate back, we had the House, last year. What changed? We were told by our leaders they were going to take on amnesty and get rid of Obamacare, nothing happened. Now they're already giving up before the fight even starts on Planned Parenthood.

You know, I want to give a backhanded compliment to Reid and Pelosi and Obama. At least they fight for what they believe in. They used every parliamentary trick in the book to cram Obamacare down our throats. I disagree with the law. I think they suspended the law. They ignored the law. They violated the Constitution. They fought like crazy for their beliefs for socialism.

Well I want our side to fight just as hard. Now we should obey the law. We should obey the Constitution. Well I want our side to fight just as hard. I want to see us fight and win, but I at least want to see us fight. I think the only way to fix this is term limits. I think we've got this permanent political ruling class in D.C. that thinks they're different from us, better than us. They don't have to follow the same rules as us. I think that's a mistake.

I think the frustration is real. And I said this earlier, I'm going to repeat this. Look, I think too many voters feel like their only choice is their honest socialists and lying conservatives. They got honest socialists who will tell them that yes, we want government to take over more and more of your freedom and take over more and more of the economy. And they've got lying conservatives saying, oh we'll do these things, and then don't do them when they actually get elected. I think they're very frustrated, and I think that the Republicans on Capitol Hill need to hear that message.

I think that you could see a wave election coming this next year, and a lot of these guys might be surprised, if they're not careful. I think it's time to fire the group. I think it's time to get some folks that actually live under the same rules they want to pass for the rest of us. I think it's time to get some leaders in this town that understand we've got to shrink the government economy, not slow the growth rate, actually shrink the government economy if we're going to grow the American economy.

**MR. HUGHES:** You mentioned Obamacare, and you have long been regarded as a healthcare expert. What do you think the realistic chances are that a GOP President and Congress really could repeal Obamacare? Or is it just something Republicans are going to have to learn to live with and maybe be able to adjust?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** No, we have to fight just as hard as they fought to get Obamacare, we need to fight just as hard to get rid of Obamacare. This is a program, the longer people are exposed to it, the more frustrated they are with it. Look, fundamentally, I've got a lot of problems with Obamacare. It makes no sense to create an entitlement program when we can't afford the government we've got. It makes no sense to increase taxes, to decrease access, when it comes to high deductibles and tight networks. It makes no sense to have bureaucrats interfering between doctors and their patients. It makes no sense to spend money we don't have.

But maybe the most important defect in Obamacare is that it reduces patients' freedoms. We don't need the government to tell us what kind of insurance to buy. We don't need the government to tell us how we should be getting our healthcare. And Republicans need to fight for that principle of freedom.

I was the first candidate to offer a detailed plan about how do you repeal and replace Obamacare. It's got 16 specific components on it. It actually does what the President said he wanted to do, which was to reduce costs. Remember, he was against the individual mandate and the Cadillac tax when it was McCain's and Hillary's ideas in the 2008 election, until it was actually in his bill. Now there's a second candidate that's offered a plan, and I want to commend Governor Walker for offering a plan, because you shouldn't run for President unless you're willing to tell folks what you're going to do.

But I disagree with his plan in two specific areas. One, he creates an entitlement program and we can't afford the entitlement programs we've got today. And secondly, he has the government subsidize potentially every American's healthcare from birth to death as a way to get to universal coverage. And he doesn't tell us how he's going to pay for that. One estimate was it would cost over a trillion dollars, and that's the D.C. way to spend money without telling us where you're going to find that money.

But my point is bigger than Scott's plan. My point is this. Yes, Republicans need to fight to repeal and replace Obamacare. And I say replace because I think we have to offer our own solutions. I don't think those solutions should involve creating a new entitlement program. The solutions should not involve the government subsidizing every single American's healthcare. My plan, instead, lower costs, targets assistant to the truly vulnerable, those with preexisting conditions, those that can't afford their healthcare, that is the better approach.

**MR. HUGHES:** This questioner says that as governor, you have had trouble striking a budget deal in Louisiana and have had plenty of struggle with legislators in your own party. How does that bode for how you would work with Congress if you were elected President?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** No, the reality is, we've actually balanced our budget eight years in a row without raising taxes. We've had eight credit upgrades. We've actually cut our state budget 26 percent. We've got over 30,000 fewer state bureaucrats

than the day I took office. I don't think anybody has cut more spending anywhere, any time, any place. I think that's a great example for what we need to do in D.C. We have always passed our budget before the end of the session. We've always passed our budget before the start of the new fiscal year. We've never done these—you know, unlike D.C., we don't play these games. We don't kick the can down the road.

And yeah we fought for our principles. And yeah, we have said we would veto any budget that includes tax increases. I think folks are looking for a President who will stand up and fight with Congress, with the Left, with the media for our conservative principles. The results speak for themselves, not only in Louisiana have we had eight credit upgrades, we've also are now a top ten state for private sector job creation. We have more people working in Louisiana than ever before, earning a higher income than ever before. Our per capita income ranking is now higher than it's been ever in our state's history.

And so I think that it shows, when you cut the government economy, you can grow the real world, the American economy. Now again, in D.C., we've got too many Republicans that aren't willing to fight. They want to go along to get along. That's not the kind of governor I've been. That's not the kind of President I will be. I think that's what voters are looking for.

**MR. HUGHES:** We just passed the ten-year anniversary of Katrina. What has gone right in the recovery in New Orleans? And what has gone wrong?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well a couple of things. First, with this tenth anniversary, I want to first say that Louisiana, the people of Louisiana are a resilient people. They got knocked to their knees, but they didn't stay there. They got right back up. And it was hard, but that leads me to my second point. Before I get to the specifics about the recovery, I want to thank the people of America. I referenced this earlier. We are an incredibly generous country. Most generous country in the world. People from 49 states came to help us. They sent their resources through church groups, school groups, civic groups. They didn't wait for government permission, they just rushed towards the Gulf Coast to help us. And I want to thank them for that. We've seen that generosity for ten years. We continue to see that generosity today in our state.

In terms of what's going right, you look at New Orleans, you look at a few examples, the educational system is stronger than it was before the storm. Over 90 percent, nearly 100 percent of the kids are in charter schools, doubling the percentage that do reading and math on grade level in five years. Cohort graduation rates went from just about half to now three-quarters, highest graduation rates now in the state, as well as in the City of New Orleans.

In New Orleans you've also seen the percentage of kids in failing schools was over 60 percent. Now it's less than ten percent. I think it's been one of the most dramatic turnarounds of a large school system anywhere in our country. Now there's still a lot of work to do, but there's been dramatic progress in a short period of time. There's a brand

new university healthcare system without patient clinics, so folks don't have to go to the emergency rooms for their routine care, their preventative and their primary care. The city is in the process of rebuilding public housing better than it was before, in terms of integrated housing. The economy has rebounded and is growing again.

So there are a lot of positive things. There's still work to be done. You know, there is still work to be done in terms of, in particular, communities and neighborhoods. There's still work to be done, and we shouldn't be satisfied until everybody that left has the opportunity to come back. Now the state's population is larger than it was pre-Katrina. But, when you look at the greater New Orleans area, it's about 90 percent of the population is back, and that's a little lower in the—it's actually lower in the city itself. So there's more work to be done, so everybody that left feels like they can come back if they choose to come back. But a lot of work has been done.

And I will say, again, the most important thing I want to say, out of all that, is to thank the people of this great country. This is a very, very generous country. And again, people, even before there was government permission, ran to help and sent the resources, and they're still doing that.

**MR. HUGHES:** Do you support offshore drilling? And are you concerned about the impact it could have on the Gulf seafood industry?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I do support offshore drilling. I'd say a couple of things. when it comes to—I've released a national energy plan that allows states to opt in and expand more opportunities for producing energy and our federal lands and waters. It would actually allow those states to participate in royalty sharing. I think that is a smart way to give states the incentives and resources and to be partners in the development of our domestic energy resources. It's been great for our economy. It's also great for our manufacturing economy.

More domestically produced energy, I'm an all of the above guy. More domestically produced energy means lower rates for consumers and businesses, but it also means we can attract manufacturing jobs from overseas back to America. And in Louisiana we've got \$60 billion dollars of projects coming into our state, over 90,000 jobs. Many of those are coming, in large part, because of affordable energy.

In terms of our seafood industry, we love the outdoors. In Louisiana we call ourselves "Sportsman's Paradise." It's our state motto. It's who we are. It's on our—it's our logo, if you will. And so absolutely, the industry and thriving—a thriving seafood industry can and do coexist. In many ways, many recreational fishermen will tell you, some of the best fishing is actually around those platforms, those deepwater platforms. Many charter guides will tell you, that's where they take their customers routinely, to go out there and fish.

So I don't think it's either/or. I think you can have affordable energy. I think you can have a strong economy. And I think you can protect your environment. And I think

it's only the Left that thinks you have to choose. It's only this President that thinks you have to choose. You can do it all, and we are doing that in Louisiana.

**MR. HUGHES:** Governor, you have a minute to catch your breath. You've been answering questions nonstop.

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I appreciate you jumping up and down. You're getting your exercise today. So thank you.

**MR. HUGHES:** I just want to remind our viewers that the National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists. We fight for a free press worldwide. And for more information about the Club, go to our website, that's [press.org](http://press.org). And to donate to our nonprofit Journalism Institute, go to the website [press.org/institute](http://press.org/institute). I'd also like to remind you about some upcoming programs. On Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a live press conference from space. Astronaut Scott Kelly will answer questions via VideoLink from the International Space Station while Astronauts Mark Kelly and Terry Virts take questions in the Press Club Ballroom. That program will start at nine a.m. And at lunch on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby will discuss college athletics. And Jane Chu, Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts will discuss new initiatives at a breakfast on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

I would now like to present our speaker with the most cherished National Press Club mug.

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Thank you very much. Honored to have that. Thank you.

**MR. HUGHES:** And that's suitable for travel to Iowa, New Hampshire—

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I'll use it well.

**MR. HUGHES:** Warm drinks taste excellent in that, no matter where you are.

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I hear it gets cold in Iowa and New Hampshire, so I'm glad to have it.

**MR. HUGHES:** So we're down to just a few final questions. If you win the nomination, I think it's safe to say you would not consider Donald Trump as your running mate.

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** I hope I made that abundantly clear.

**MR. HUGHES:** Who among the other candidates might you consider as a running mate?

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Well, look. Let me tell you the kind of person that I would look for in a running mate. Too often, I think these are made based on political considerations. I think that's nonsense. Too often you hear folks say, "Well, you got to look for balance or geography or electoral votes." Nonsense. The only two things I think should matter, the most important thing is, can this person do the job? Meaning on the first day, God forbid, if they are called in to actually take over and be President, are they up to that task? And that's most important qualification, period.

Secondly, I'm looking for someone who shares my conservative beliefs, somebody who understands we need to shrink the size of government, we need to fight for religious liberty, we need to grow our American economy, not the government economy, somebody who understands that we have to solve this immigration crisis. We've got to secure the border. Somebody who understands we've got to repeal Obamacare. Somebody who understands we've got to make America—We've got to rescue the idea of America, make America great again, to borrow the phrase. We do have to make America great again.

But we have to rescue the idea of America that's slipping away in front of us. So for me, it's not about balance, not about electoral votes, it's not about geography or political considerations. It's, is this person qualified? And secondly, secondly, do they share my conservative beliefs? Too often Republicans, we win the election, and then, unlike the Democrats, we don't govern the way that we promised, the way that we talked. And the reality is, this next President will be in a position to appoint Supreme Court justices, will be in a position, I believe, to really decide whether we take—we seize this opportunity to rescue America, rescue the idea of America slipping away.

And again, my appeal to conservatives is, let's rely on our tested conservative beliefs. Let's not rely on a narcissist who only believes in himself. This is a critical election, a critical moment for our country. Let's not waste the opportunity the Democrats have given us by betting on an entertaining narcissist. He's funny. We can laugh about him. We can watch him. But that's not—that's not the path to rescuing our country.

**MR. HUGHES:** Governor, we're out of time. Could we give a round of applause to Governor Jindal for being with us today.

[applause]

**GOVERNOR JINDAL:** Thank you all for coming. I want to thank the National Press Club for being such gracious hosts. It was great to be back here. I've been here before. Thank you all very much for hosting us and having us.

**MR. HUGHES:** And I would also like to thank our National Press Club staff including the Journalism Institute and Broadcast Center for organizing today's event. I also want to remind you that if you would like a copy of today's program, or to learn



more about the Club, go to that website, [press.org](http://press.org). Thank you very much. We are adjourned.

END